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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The guest chaplain, Reverend Gloria Chaney-Robinson, Senior Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Scranton, PA, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, we pause in these revered halls to give thanks and to offer petition. We acknowledge in this place You have called humankind to exhibit righteousness and justice. You desire harmony, accord, peace, and wholeness. Bless now the representatives who gather in this place of policy and procedure.

We ask, O God, that You would impart the gift of now vision and future sights. We pray for Your gifts of vision, discernment, sensitivity, and perceptiveness. For those assembled present and those to come, grant the posture of patience and of cooperation. To those in debate, discussion, discourse, and duty, allow calm clarity.

Allow truth to reign, justice to reside, and mercy to resonate. Keep ever before us the broken, the disappointed, those in despair, and the destitute. Set ears to hear the cries of the poor, the needs of the sick, and the afflicted. Please allow hearts assembled to do that which is best for all.

In advance, for what You will do, we say thank You. We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, the Hagan Sportsmen's Act.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, shooting, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m. this morning, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

At 11 a.m. the Senate will proceed to executive session, and we will have five rollcall votes which will be to confirm three judges from Florida, one from Vermont, and also a very important cloture vote on the Rodriguez nomination, to be the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at the Department of Homeland Security.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, it is unfortunate that we still have scores and scores of good men and women on the Executive Calendar waiting to be confirmed. The delay by the Republicans is untoward. It has never happened before, and we are working through these as quickly as we can. The judges only take an hour of postcloture time, but the nominations take 8 hours of postcloture time. We can yield back 4 hours, which we do almost every time, but these stalling tactics by the Republicans have added to our doing nothing here in the Senate not by hours or days or weeks but by months. It is so unfortu-

nate. We have never had a situation such as this before.

As everyone knows, we changed the rules as they related to judges, and thank goodness we did that. Justice can move forward in our country without the delay and obstruction that has taken place over the last number of years with Republicans holding up judges. We, through the chairman of the committee, have moved lots of judges. We now have four circuit court judges we have to move toward, and we will do that, even though each one of those takes 30 hours. We are nearly caught up with district court judges, which speaks well for the Judiciary Committee and the Senators who are forwarding names to the President for submission to the committee.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

Mr. President, tomorrow we are going to turn to the Workforce Investment Act—a nice, important piece of legislation. It is a picture of what we should be doing here on legislation in general. The Workforce Investment Act is a very complicated piece of legislation. We are not going to spend a lot of time on it, but that should not in any way take away from the importance of this legislation. It is very important legislation. It is an example of how we should be able to get done in the Senate.

I commend Senators MURRAY, HARKIN, and ALEXANDER for working to get this bill to us. They have spent untoward hours and hours of time to get us here. Everyone knows LAMAR ALEXANDER is a peacemaker, and I appreciate his work. I was told a few minutes ago that he came to the floor and said: Why don't we go ahead on the appropriations bills and on amendments that appear to be controversial, and we can have a 60-vote threshold on those? I suggested the same thing yesterday.

We voted here approximately 50 times. I have been forced to have, because of the McConnell rule, 60 votes

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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